

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, drawings and claims 2, 4, 7 and 8 are amended. The specification is amended to address an objection to the figures to comport with the change to the drawings. The Abstract is amended in response to the objection thereto. Claim 2 is amended to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 and claims 4 and 7 are amended to address objections to the claims. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. Personal Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Charles during the interview held October 6, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

II. Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a) for allegedly failing to show "means for detecting the amount of swing in the tensioner arm" as recited in claim 7. However, as claim 7 is amended to delete the phrase, the objection is moot. Fig. 1 is amended to clarify the swing angle, i.e., the amount of swing in the belt tensioner 3. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

III. Specification

The Abstract of the specification is objected to under MPEP §608.01(b) for failing to use proper phraseology. Specifically, it is alleged that use of the phrase "e.g." is improper. Review of §608.01(b) finds no specific prohibition against the use of such phraseology. However, the Abstract is amended to a more narrative form.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 6 is appreciated, it being allowable of rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 6, as well as the remaining pending claims, are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

V. Claim Objections

Claims 2, 4 and 7 are objected to due to informalities. Specifically, claims 2 and 4 are objected to for use of the word "coupled" rather than the suggested phrase of "engaged". As claim 2 does not recite the word "coupled" the objection to that claim under such grounds is moot. Although Applicant's choice of words in the claim is not improper, claim 4 is amended as suggested in the Office Action to expedite prosecution of this application.

Claim 7 is objected to due to a spelling error. The error is corrected in reply to the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

VI. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Office Action alleges that use of the phrase "in a manner" in claim 2 renders the intended scope of the claim indefinite. Claim 2 is amended to delete the phrase "in a manner". Accordingly, claim 2 and its dependent claims 3-6 and 8 should no longer be held to be indefinite.

As claim 7 depends from independent claim 1, the rejection of that claim under 35 U.S.C. §112, for the grounds indicated in the Office Action, is moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 -8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

VII. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,780,731 to Matsui et al. (Matsui) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,310 to Adachi et al. (Adachi). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, neither Matsui or Adachi, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest a belt-drive system driven by an internal combustion engine mounted on an automotive vehicle, the belt-drive system comprising . . . a first generator and a second generator, the first generator is controlled to generate a generation torque that reduces fluctuations in the belt tension by controlling excitation current supplied to a field coil of the first generator, as recited in rejected claim 1.

Matsui relates to a method for detecting a locked state of auxiliaries of automobile engines, in particularly refrigerant compressors or air-conditioners and oil pumps for power steering (col. 1, lines 6-10). Matsui describes a serpentine belt 7 that drives a plurality of pulleys and an auto-tensioner 9 for automatically adjusting the belt 7 so that the tension of the belt 7 becomes a constant value at the loosest side of the belt 7 along with a single idler pulley 10 (see generally, col. 2, line 62 - col. 3, line 10). The auto tensioner 9 is supported so that the base portion 14 thereof can pivot within a limited angular range (col. 3, lines 27-28). When the idler pulley 10 of the auto-tensioner 9 is turned by the drive force transmitted from the crankshaft pulley 6 via the belt 7, a large number of teeth 12 made of a magnetic material intermittently pass a position immediately before the detection end of an electromagnetic pickup 18. A control unit counts the signal from the pickup to detect the rotational speed of the idler pulley of the auto-tensioner thereby providing a mechanism of auxiliary torque detection utilizing the auto-tensioner (see generally, col. 4, lines 10-60). Thus, Matsui does

not disclose, suggest, or even relate to controlling a generator to reduce fluctuations in belt tension by controlling excitation current supplied to a field coil.

Adachi discloses a car power supply system comprising a plurality of generators. The provision of a plurality of generators is alleged to improve the installation freedom of an engine and safety against crash and obtain high output for a large-capacity electric load (col. 2, lines 18-37).

It is alleged in the Office Action that Matsui discloses each and every feature recited in the rejected claims but for a system that includes two generators. To overcome the admitted deficiencies, the Office Action combines the plural generator system of Adachi with that of Matsui in an attempt to render obvious the rejected claims or a basis for rejection of these elements. However, the Office Action fails to provide a complete recitation of the elements recited in the rejected claims or a basis for rejection of those elements. For example, the Office Action fails to recite or allege that the references, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest that the first generator is controlled to generate a generation torque that reduces fluctuations in the belt tension by controlling excitation current supplied to a field coil of the first generator.

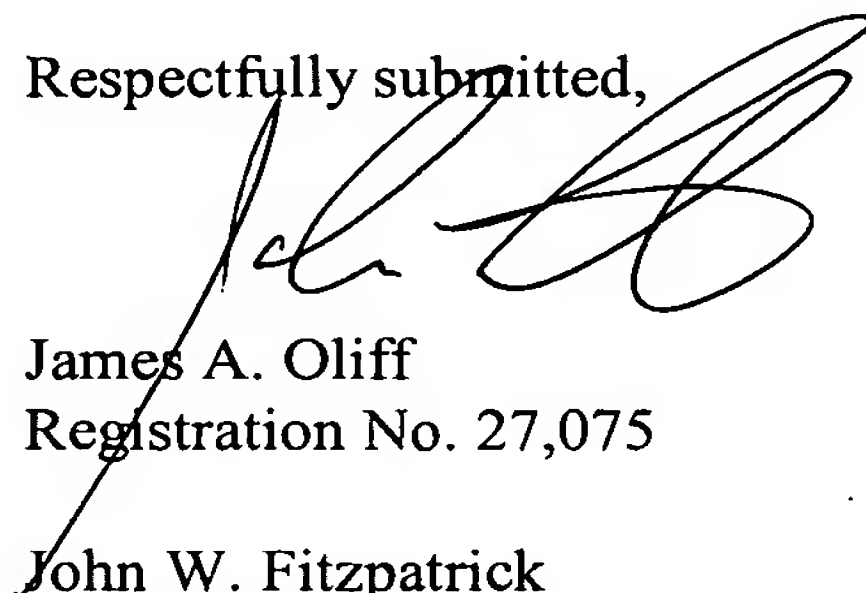
As neither Matsui or Adachi disclose or suggest such a feature, nor does either of the references contemplate controlling a generator of any type in an effort to reduce fluctuations in belt tension by controlling excitation current supplied to a field coil of such a generator, the combination of references fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

VIII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JWF/ldg

Attachments:

Abstract

Replacement Sheet

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